Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Program

An Overview of the Marine Corps SAPR Program

Objectives

- Understand sexual assault and its impact on victims and the Marine Corps

- Provide information on the USMC Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program

- Discuss Bystander Intervention techniques as a form of prevention

What is sexual assault?

Sexual Assault Defined

- Sexual assault is defined as ***intentional sexual contact***, characterized by the use of
  - force
  - threats
  - intimidation
  - abuse of authority
  - or when the victim does not or cannot consent

DoDD 6495.01

Types of Sexual Assault

- Rape

  Sexual intercourse without a person's consent

- Forcible sodomy

  Oral or anal sex without a person's consent

- Unwanted Sexual Contact

  Groping, grabbing, fondling, or touching of a sexual nature without consent

- Attempts to commit any of the above

Sexual Harassment vs. Sexual Assault

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination that involves conduct of a sexual nature, including unwelcome sexual advances and requests for sexual favors, when it interferes with the work environment.

Sexual Harassment is typically

"Hands Off"

Sexual Assault

Sexual assault is *intentional sexual contact*, characterized by use of force, physical threat or abuse of authority or when the victim does not or cannot consent.

Sexual Assault is always

"Hands On"

What is consent?

Consent Defined

- Consent is words or overt acts indicating a freely given agreement to the sexual conduct at issue by a *competent person*.
- Lack of verbal or physical resistance or submission resulting from the accused's use of force, threat of force, or placing another person in fear does not constitute consent.

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Consent Defined (continued)

- There is no consent where the person is sleeping or incapacitated, such as due to age, alcohol or drugs, or mental incapacity.
- A current or previous dating relationship by itself or the manner of dress of the person involved with the accused in the sexual contact at issue shall not constitute consent.

Helpful Tips About Consent

- Consent must be given by both parties before any sexual contact
- At any point during the sexual contact, either person can withdraw their consent for any reason
- If there is any doubt about someone's ability to consent to sexual contact- think smart and back off

What kind of impact does sexual assault have on victims?

Impact of Sexual Assault on the Victim

Physical Effects

- Physical trauma
- Skeletal muscle tension
- Eating pattern disturbance
- STIs and/or pregnancy

Emotional Effects

- ***Individual reactions vary widely***
- Flashbacks
- Anxiety
- Powerlessness
- Disorganization
- Self-blame
- Depression
- Withdrawal

Impact of Sexual Assault on the Unit

- Readiness suffers
- Unit cohesion & teamwork erodes
- Good order and discipline are disrupted

What are the legal sanctions for offenders of sexual assault?

Legal Sanctions for Offenders

Sexual Assault is punishable under the UCMJ

Maximum punishments include:

- confinement for life without eligibility for parole
- total loss of all pay and allowances
- dishonorable discharge / dismissal from service
- reduction to paygrade E-1

What is the Marine Corps policy regarding sexual assault?

USMC Policy on Sexual Assault

- Zero tolerance for sexual assault
- Sexual assault is a ***criminal act***
- Victims have access to appropriate assistance & will be treated with ***decency, fairness, and respect***
- Commanding officers of offenders will take appropriate disciplinary and/or administrative action

MCO 1752.5A

The USMC SAPR Program

The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program is dedicated to eliminating sexual assault within the Marine Corps and providing continuity of care for victims of sexual assault through effective education, policy, and program support.

The SAPR Program is operational in both the garrison and deployed environments

Services Provided by the SAPR Program

- **24/7 sexual assault crisis intervention for all service members and adult dependents**
- Advocacy and accompaniment during medical, law enforcement, and judicial procedures
- Systemic advocacy to ensure all victims receive a consistent response to their report
- Support and services at next duty station (if the victim requests) through

Victim Reporting Options

Unrestricted Reporting

Initiates an official law enforcement investigation
& the support of the chain of command

Restricted Reporting

Allows the victim to report *confidentially*
& receive help without an

Victim Reporting Options

ALL Victims have access to:

- Medical treatment
- Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE)
- Advocacy and counseling services

Unrestricted Reporting

- An official law enforcement investigation is conducted in order to hold the offender accountable
- Command is notified and therefore able to provide the maximum care and support to the victim

Unrestricted Reporting

For an Unrestricted Report, the victim can contact:

- Uniformed Victim Advocate (UVA)
- Civilian Victim Advocate
- Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC)
- Command
- Law Enforcement

Restricted Reporting

- Supports victims who need more time or simply don't feel comfortable coming forward
- A law enforcement investigation is not initiated
- Victim's Commanding Officer is notified within 24 hours that an incident has occurred, however, *no identifying information will be provided*

Restricted Reporting

- Victim can **only** report to:
  - Uniformed/Civilian Victim Advocate
  - SARC
  - Healthcare Personnel

    In California, medical providers are required to report sexual assault

- Option can also be preserved if you speak to a:
  - Chaplain
  - Military Legal Assistance Attorney

Restricted Reporting

Victims can choose to make a Restricted Report Unrestricted at any time.

However, once an Unrestricted Report has been made, the Restricted option is no longer available.

Victim Actions

- Go to a safe location
- **If immediate medical attention is needed, report to the closest medical facility**
- Contact the UVA or call the 24/7 Hotline
- Preserve evidence- refrain from “cleaning up”

What can you do to help prevent someone from being sexually assaulted?

Bystander Intervention

- As Marines, we have the responsibility to look out for one another
- Bystander Intervention refers to finding a way to safely intervene in potentially dangerous situations
- It's not always clear what is going on in every situation, but trust your gut
- Making the choice to intervene is *always* the right thing to do

How to Intervene

- Be smart- think safety first
- Remember the Bystander Intervention Techniques:
  - **Direct**- to give commands or orders
  - **Distract**- to draw away or divert attention
  - **Delegate**- to appoint someone else

Sgt Jerald Scandrett III

Bystander Intervention

- If you see something, say something
- Be smart- think safety first
- Your decision to do the right thing and intervene can stop someone from being sexually assaulted

Conclusion

- Sexual assault is a serious crime impacting the Marine Corps
- Every Marine has the responsibility and the ability to prevent sexual assault by taking a stand
- The SAPR Program has resources available 24/7 to assist victims

If you need help or more information…

- UVA NAME, LOCATION
- INSTALLATION 24/7 Sexual Assault Helpline

DoD Safe Helpline

Sexual Assault Support for the DoD Community

1-877-995-5247

www.safehelpline.org

Or

text your zip code or installation

55-247 (inside the U.S.)

202-470-5546 (outside the U.S.)